

The

Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.
NOBISCUM
CHRISTUS STATE.

School Record

July, 1936.

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 54

JULY, 1936

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

D. HUNT, F. M. JOHNSON, PARSONS, BIDDLE I.

School Register.

Valete.

*Hands, F. (vi.) 1930-36.

Hodgetts, L. A. R. (Upp. iv.)
1932-36.

Turner, G. (Upp. v.) 1931-36.

Price, B. S. (Upp. iv.) 1932-36.

Grubb, K. H. (Low. v.) 1933-36.

Hanson, D. N. (Low. iv.) 1931-36.

Clemson, A. N. (Upp. iv.) 1933-36. Price, B. M. (Low. iv.) 1932-36.

*Prefect.

Salvete.

Howes, G. (Rem.)

Rutter, M.A. (i.)

The Old Scholars' Guild News.

PRESIDENT—Mr. Caton.

SECRETARY—S. Styler.

TREASURER—C. H. Baylis.

The Summer Reunion will be held at School on Saturday, July 25th, beginning at 3 p.m. An Old Scholars v. School cricket match has been arranged for the afternoon. There will also be an American tennis tournament, for which the secretary will be pleased to receive entries either in couples or singly as early as possible. Prizes will be awarded to the finalists. In addition, clock golf, croquet, table tennis, etc., will be organised for those who wish to play.

A tennis match between Old Scholars and the School (girls only) was begun on Friday, June 19th, but, on account of rain, could not be concluded till the following Friday. The result was a victory for the Old Scholars by 75 games to 58 (8 sets all). The Old Scholars were represented by E.

Holder and M. Rook ; R. Bunting and N. Holder ; M. Sisam and M. Bomford ; M. Davis and E. Smart.

On Friday, June 26th, a very enjoyable dance was held in the Town Hall. Frank Rawlings and his band provided the music.

The annual mixed tennis match with the School was played on Thursday, July 2nd. The Old Scholars' team consisted of K. Barley and D. Savage ; E. Perks and B. Hodgkinson ; M. Sisam and D. Baylis ; E. Holder and S. Styler. A good match ended in a victory for the Old Scholars by 11 sets to 4.

The annual evening cricket match with the School XI. took place at Ragley on Monday, June 22nd. The game was drawn, the School declaring at 101 for 7 wickets, and the Old Scholars compiling 94 for 5 wickets. The Old Scholars, who were one man short, fielded the following team :— K. Bailey (capt.), C. H. Baylis, J. Chambers, E. Chattaway, F. Duxbury, P. Hodgkinson, G. Horton, S. Ledbury, E. Plevin and D. Richards.

Congratulations to B. W. Spencer (scholar 1917-24) who has obtained her degrees in medicine and surgery at Birmingham University.

Also to G. T. Colegate (scholar 1928-33), who has gained the B.Sc. degrees with 2nd class honours at Birmingham, at the age of nineteen.

And to K. B. L. Bailey (scholar 1928-34), who has passed the Intermediate examination of the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute, and has been elected a licentiate of that Institute.

And to P. Carratt (scholar 1928-33), who has obtained the Domestic Science diploma, with credits in cookery, laundry-work and housewifery at Bath Domestic Science Training College. She was awarded a Roxburgh Prize of £5 for the most successful student in the first year among third year diploma students.

And to H. E. Yates (scholar 1927-33), who has passed the Intermediate examination for the Admission of Solicitors, held by the Law Society.

We are told of a curious coincidence. J. Jackson was seeking a temporary post in London. Her travels led her to the offices of a certain company. Imagine her surprise when she found already established there M. Tombs, an Old Scholar of her own year !

Births.

On December 2nd to Mr. and Mrs. J. Farmer—a daughter.

On March 17th to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. H. Dorsett (née Mary Sherwood)—a son.

On March 26th to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Harris (née Cicely Holder)—a son.

On April 2nd to Mr. and Mrs. Newman (née Gwen Rimell)—a son.

On April 16th to Mr. and Mrs. R. Grummett (née Muriel Smith)—a daughter.

On May 25th to Mr. and Mrs. G. Hallam (née Mary Baseley)—a son.

On June 6th to Mr. and Mrs. E. Bunting—a daughter.

Marriages.

On April 11th at Alcester, Leslie G. Haydon to Ida May Criddle (scholar 1919-24).

On April 15th at Haselor, Philip T. Finnemore (scholar 1914-25) to Ellen Mary Bullock (scholar 1920-27).

On June 1st at Chipping Campden, Charles Spencer Bartlett to Phyllis May Alexander (scholar 1920-24).

Deaths.

On April 20th, Sylvia Harris (scholar 1931-35), aged 15 years.

On April 29th, Ronald Robins (scholar 1912-19), aged 30 years.

"Penny Dreadfuls."

The penny dreadful is a type of story which has always been condemned by all except the boys or girls who secretly treasure their copies of "School-girl's Delight" or "Stirring Adventures of the East." Let us consider this kind of tale and see if it can be justified.

It is necessary for tales for youth to have an imposing title, such as "Expelled from Greycote," or "Big Bill braves the Wilds." An illustration of a girl creeping along a dark corridor or a man resembling a heavy-weight champion, fighting a tiger unarmed and single-handed helps to create the right impression. The plot is usually thrilling and creates suspense. For instance, Mabel is discovered handing a parcel to someone outside the school grounds on the night that the sports cup disappears, and eventually after much mystery and suspicion, and silent suffering on the part of the heroine, it is disclosed that Mabel was merely giving food to a starving orphan, and that the cup was stolen by a convict escaped from a prison nearby; or, Big Bill, exploring the wilds of Africa on an elephant, falls into the hands of a hitherto unknown tribe, is tortured and altogether very badly treated, escapes, discovers a store of ivory and is hailed as a hero by naturalists, archaeologists, psychologists and lots of other "ists" from all over the world.

It has been suggested that such stories as these have a bad influence on the young. But surely nothing but the opposite is true. The story of Mabel holds up an ideal of noble thought, and encourages young ladies who read it to act in a similar fashion. (The fact that there are no Mabels in the world of to-day can of course, be overlooked, for no heroine has a counterpart in real life). Moreover, if the story is interspersed with accounts of hockey matches and of detentions for sliding down the banisters, it serves the double purpose of encouraging the team-spirit, and of providing a moral—that school rules are not made to be broken—thus saving much trouble on the part of those who guide and control school-children.

Similarly, in the tale of Big Bill, the spirit of adventure, which is said to be lacking in these days, is well to the fore. The story might also take the place of, or at least supplement, geography text books, in showing the state and habits of remote Central Africa, besides stressing the courage and indomitable spirit of the hero. Consider, then, all the advantages of these stories; and realise that it is useless to ban

them, for as long as they remain uncensored, they will be sure to find their way under the pillow of the majority of youthful readers.

H. D. H.

Notes and News.

The cricket captain this year is Hewlett i, and the tennis captain is Flora Johnson.

The Speech Day gathering took place in the Alcester Picture House, on Thursday, May 7th, when the headmaster of Rugby presented the certificates and delivered the address. A large number of parents and friends afterwards assembled at School, where tea was provided.

On Friday, March 27th, a party from the Sixth and Upper Fifth forms with Miss Evans visited Bournville.

At the end of last term the customary presentations took place. The football (the gift of the Bunting brothers) was presented to Bullock i and Bullock ii jointly. The hockey stick was awarded to M. Boylin.

Football colours were handed to Down, and hockey colours to Flora Johnson.

Sports Day was Thursday, May 28th. The presentations were made by Mrs. W. H. Perkins, of Warwick.

On the following day the Scout outing to Dovedale took place

The Mile was run on Wednesday, March 25th, and the Cross Country on Friday, May 8th, both events being won by Gray.

The Oxford examinations began on Monday, July 13th, while the Drawing examinations were held in the previous week.

A number of visits to the Stratford Memorial Theatre have been paid this term. On Wednesday, May 27th, the Upper Fourth, with Miss Evans and Mr. Druller saw "The Merchant of Venice"; on Wednesday, June 10th, members of the Sixth and the Upper Fifth, with Miss Deans and Mr. Druller attended "Twelfth Night"; and on Wednesday, June 24th, the Lower Fifth, with Miss Evans and Mr. Druller, attended a performance of "Julius Caesar."

A special matinee of the film "David Copperfield," was arranged for the school in the Alcester Picture House on Tuesday, June 30th. A large party from Form vi. to Form ii. attended.

We wish to acknowledge the gift of two volumes of Southgate's "History of England" to the Reference Library.

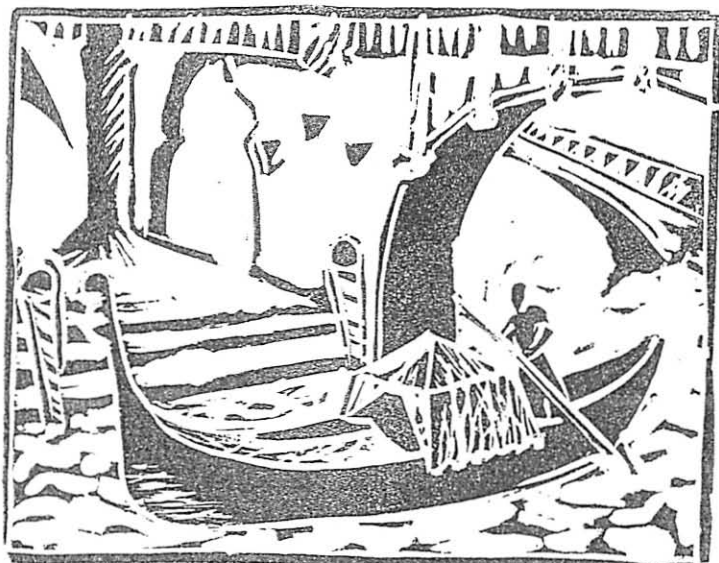
The Magazine committee have presented to the Reference Library a bound volume of the "RECORD" 1931-35.

Cricket colours have been awarded to Down and Baylis i.

Half term coincided with the Whitsun week end. An extra day's holiday was given on Wednesday, June 3rd, at the request of Mr. Lyons on Speech Day.

The sale of scholars' work in the Arts and Crafts competitions on Sports Day realised £5 9s. 1d.

Term ends on Tuesday, July 28th.



Print of linoleum cut by M. J. ROWLES.

Oxford Letter.

To the Editor, the RECORD.

Wishing to collect together the goings-on at Oxford of the four Old Scholars there, I sought out Miss Mabel Browning, who is at St. Hilda's and ultimately found her in the Bodleian, buried under five feet of books. Wonderingly I departed and approached Miss Josie Lane, at St. Hugh's, for "the more respectable" of her achievements. Her answer, quite shocking me was that she had no respectable achievement this term. Your abashed scribe then sought out Mr. Bill Sherwood at Pembroke looking first in his bedroom as it was only 11.30 a.m. However, he had been up he assured me for a full half-hour, and rapt in admiration, was scanning his mirror to observe the progress of a smutty appendage he has taken to cultivating on his upper lip. He told me indignantly, that he had washed that morning. It was a moustache, an experiment presumably taking the place of that with the pipe which came to such a sickening end.

I tracked down Mr. Clifford Baylis in the evening as chairman of a meeting of The Next Five Years' Group. Very interesting, too, but when I humbly requested an interview with the great man he told me that he was going out to coffee with Sir Arthur Salter.

Such meagre tidings I thought would lose me the two-pence you had promised towards my travelling expenses if I should be successful, but at 11.30 that night I was rolled into by Mr. Sherwood returning home in a talkative mood, who told me quite a lot, some of which I find it possible to print.

Mabel Browning has written an article in "The Isis" this term which the Editor characterises as "introducing a serious note." Clifford is on the committee of the Conservative Club. He has played for his college second teams at cricket and at tennis. Josie Lane has played tennis for a St. Hugh's team, has lost more things than usual this term, scrambled through a hedge to gatecrash an exhibition match and has continued to put in some very good work for her Bachelor of Hearts degree. She is college secretary for the N. F. Y. G.

Concerning himself I gathered that in spite of the fact that he rowed at four in the Pembroke 2nd eight they did very well and made six bumps. He is college secretary for the N. F. Y. G. which position he also fills for the L. N. U.

So unbearable are the speeches he makes that they are actually paying him to go away and make them at Nottingham.

Best wishes to Mabel Browning for continued success at London University whither it is her intention to go in pursuit of more and more degrees.

Your RECORD Reporter,

PRODNOSE.

History Modernised.

History, as I am sure many of you will agree, is often very dull. What does it matter to us whether King John signed the Magna Carta in 1215 or 1316, or whether King Harold was pierced in the eye by an arrow in 1066, or what really happened to the two Princes in the Tower? Now I suggest that, if we "hotted up" history a little, we should find it much more to our taste. Take, for example, that famous story of how King Alfred burnt the cakes. Now isn't it really hard to imagine such a thing actually happening? But I can guarantee that when you have read my version of the story you will never forget that famous historical incident.

One day, King Alfred, having been worried to death by the Great Danes (how he hated the dogs!) decided to go on a hiking tour. So after he had been to Bond Street and bought a snappy pair of shorts (on the instalment system, of course) and a little beret to match, he set out. He hiked on and on till he hiked in every limb (sorry! but I've got to fill this page up somehow) and at last he decided that it must be time for lunch. It was not until that terrible moment that he remembered leaving his bottle of lemonade on the pantry table. Still he must have something to quench his thirst, so, noisily sucking an acid drop, he made his way towards a modern-looking house; here, he was greeted, not very royally! by the lady of the house. Her hair was most artistically "done up" (I think such is the correct expression) in curlers, but what immediately attracted Alfred's attention was her lily-white hands—due no doubt to the wonderful property of U. P. Self-Raising Flour.

Exclaiming politely how too divine the weather was, Alfred found himself unceremoniously hustled into the kitchen. His hostess then exclaimed:—"Say!" in her best American drawl, "you sure have come at a good time. Oh boy! This is the goods! Just stay here while I telephone

Mrs. — to arrange a bridge party. I'll be seein' you," and with that she dashed out leaving Alfred absolutely flabbergasted.

When he had once more regained control of himself, Alfred gazed round the kitchen, and saw what he gathered to be the remains of a cooking effort. Determined to overcome his worries, the monarch sat down in the comfiest of arm-chairs, took out his daily paper, and diligently started to work on his football coupons. He had actually won 25s. last week and that had saved the royal monarch a visit to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (you never did know where he spent his week-ends, anyway), for, as it was, Alfred could not keep within his income, and, after all, he had his position to keep up. Now would Aston Villa beat Chelsea? Neither of them had won a match that season, so it was rather difficult to predict the result. Time went on, but Alfred was still busily poring over his coupons. Presently, he raised his head! but nothing could he see! Everything was enveloped in a white smoke, and yes! there was a most unpleasant odour too! Summoning all his kingly courage and orating in a most kingly fashion—"Once more into the breach, dear friends"—(he only knew the first line, but it served its purpose) he dashed into the fray. He had nearly reached the oven door, or at least where he thought the oven door ought to be, when he heard a woman's voice.

Jezebel had returned!

I leave you, dear readers, to imagine the heated argument that followed.

V.G.A.H.

Olla Podrida.

M. C. tells us that the equator passes through the Island of Cancer.

M. J. R. translates "*exercito corpore*" as "an officer in the army." No doubt she means a corporal. She also tells us that "*Fessus in lecto*" means "tired of reading"—reading, evidently, in bed.

Trade Unions, says one of our economists, have Optional Benevolent funds for compensating failure of eyesight.

Who, when making a map of the voyages of Elizabethan seamen, looked up the places in the index of "Names in the Great War," and found Hall Island, on a voyage from England to Greenland, in new Zealand?

Has anyone seen "Clory Fil"? According to M. W. she haunts the leaves of green plants.

And who asked for the name of the winner of the "Victor Ludorum" for Arts and Crafts?

Sports Day, 1936.

Sports Day was held rather early this year, the date being May 28th. Fine weather, accompanied by a north-east wind, favoured the boys, but necessitated, to a large extent, the use of overcoats by the visitors. Once again we have to thank Mr. Hall for his untiring energy in preparing the field, running off the heats, and generally organising the day; also the stewards and judges for their assistance in awarding the points—in short, for making Sports Day the great success it was.

The various events were keenly contested, especially the Senior half-mile and the Junior Slow Bicycle races, where remarkably close finishes took place. The Relay Race, also, provided much excitement.

One regrettable incident occurred, however, in the Senior High Jump, Bullock ii. slipping, and breaking an arm. Parents and scholars will be pleased to hear that Bullock is recovering rapidly.

Mrs. Perkins kindly presented the Cup, Shield, and Medals. Luker is to be congratulated on securing the Cup for the second year in succession, obtaining 73 points, a majority of 25 points over his nearest rival, Biddle i. Robinson, with 46 points, was the most successful junior.

A vote of thanks to Mrs. Perkins was proposed by Luker and seconded by Kathleen Collins. Two verses of the School Song were sung, and the proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem. And so passed the 24th Sports Day in the History of the School.

The results of the races were as follows:—

Seniors (over 14).

- 100 Yards.—1 Luker, 2 Biddle i., 3 Bullock i., 4 Bullock ii.,
220 Yards.—1 Luker, 2 Biddle i., 3 Bullock i., 4 Down.
Quarter Mile.—1 Biddle i., 2 Baylis i., 3 Orme, 4 Gray.
Half Mile.—1 Whitehouse, 2 Down, 3 Gray, 4 Baylis i.
Hurdles.—1 Luker, 2 Bullock ii., 3 Gray, 4 Bullock i.
Obstacle Race.—1 Baylis i., 2 Spencer ii., 3 Bullock i., 4 Biddle i.
Slow Bicycle.—1 Hewlett ii., 2 Bryan, 3 Baylis i., 4 Arnold.
High Jump.—1 Baylis i., 2 Luker, 3 Williams, 4 Bullock ii.
Consolation Race.—1 Gaydon, 2 Bryan, 3 Sollis, 4 Moore i.
Cross-Country Race (5 miles).—1 Gray, 2 Orme, 3 Luker, 4 Whitehouse.
The Mile.—1 Gray, 2 Orme, 3 Taylor, 4 Hewlett i.
Long Jump.—1 Luker, 2 Biddle i., 3 Orme, 4 Williams.
Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1 Luker, 2 Biddle i., 3 Bayne, 4 Down.

Juniors (12-14).

- 100 Yards.—1 Biddle ii., 2 Harrison, 3 Robinson, 4 Goulbourne.
220 Yards.—1 Robinson, 2 Smith ii., 3 Walton, 4 Collett i.
Half-Mile.—1 Smith ii., 2 Goulbourne, 3 Mahoney, 4 Salt.
Hurdles.—1 Collins i., 2 Allen ii., 3 Mahoney, 4 Collett i.
High Jump.—1 Collins i and Allen ii., 3 Robinson, 4 Collett i.
Obstacle Race.—1 Robinson, 2 Jordan, 3 Biddle ii., 4 Mahoney.
Slow Bicycle.—1 Cale, 2 Allen ii., 3 Heard, 4 Mahoney.
Consolation Race.—1 Midlane, 2 Horton, 3 Davis, 4 Jordan.
Cross-Country (3 miles).—1 Smith ii., 2 Robinson, 3 Goulbourne, 4 Collins i.
Long Jump.—1 Robinson, 2 Collins i., 3 Collett i., 4 Goulbourne.
Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1 Heard, 2 Biddle ii., 3 Allen ii., 4 Battersea.

Juniors (under 12).

- 100 Yards.—1 Hillman, 2 Goode, 3 Collett ii., 4 Ison.
Egg and Spoon.—1 Collett ii., 2 Midlane ii., 3 Spencer ii., 4 de Walley.
Sack Race.—1 de Walley, 2 Midlane ii., 3 Stevens, 4 Edwards.
Three-legged Race.—1 Ison and Collett ii., 2 Wilkes and Stevens, 3 Spencer iii., and Goode, 4 Hughes and Collier.

Other Events.

- 75 Yards (7-9).—1 Aspinwall, 2 de Walley, 3 Hillman, 4 M. Henman.
Potato Race (Form I.).—1 Hillman, 2 Naylor, 3 H. Barnes, 4 M. Henman.
Wheelbarrow Race (Juniors).—1 Brownies, 2 Tomtits, 3 Jackals.
Tug of War.—1 Jackals, 2 Brownies, 3 Tomtits.
Relay Race.—1 Tomtits, 2 Jackals, 3 Brownies.
The following presentations were made:—
VICTOR LUDORUM CUP.—Luker, 73 points.
SILVER MEDALS.—Biddle i., Gray, Baylis i., Whitehouse, Smith ii., Robinson, Collins i.
BRONZE MEDALS.—Orme, Down, Bullock i., Mahoney, Goulbourne, Allen ii., Midlane ii., Hillman, Biddle ii., Heard, Collett i.
SPORTS SHIELD.—The Tomtits (392 points). Jackals scored 347 points, and the Brownies 337.

R. B. B.

Sports Day Indoors.

The arrival of Sports Day was heralded by a relieved dumping in the dining room of vast quantities of eatables which had been so laboriously brought to school. Not to be outdone by the apparent industry of the boys, the girls of the upper forms spent a busy morning arranging the cookery, and, later, the craft work, on trestle tables in the Hall. In spite of the customary uncomplimentary remarks about other people's culinary efforts, almost all the cookery was sold quite early in the afternoon.

When at last everything was ready, and visitors began to arrive, we were sent off in pairs, jangling little red money bags, heavy with change, between us. There were the usual difficulties about lost or exchanged labels, and the usual polite reminders to the non-mathematical among us that a customer's change was "not all it might have been." Eagerly we snatched at the few moments respite which was allowed us to find out how the various sides were progressing on the sports field. But it was soon necessary to return, and to concentrate, not on the events outside, but on the duties before us.

Apart from the cookery and needlework display, the exhibits in the Art Room proved a great attraction. Silver-paper bowls, passepartouted pictures, and raffia-work, together with some pottery and historical illustrations were the work of the juniors, while other historical illustrations, posters and lino-cut prints were senior work. The competition in photography was revived this year, and although the entries were not as numerous as might have been hoped, the few which were entered aroused great interest. In the History Room, too, the high standard of work in the historical dolls and models attracted many people.

Towards the end of the afternoon, when the shields and medals had been presented, we had to rush back into the Hall to distribute purchases—not always, I fear, to the right customer. Some of us were fortunate too, at this time, in being able to speak to Mr. and Mrs. Wells, who encouraged us with the remark that one side had not always been, and would not always be, successful.

RESULTS

The Arts and Crafts Shield was won by the Jackals with 1233 points, the Brownies being second with 1190 points, and the Tomtits third with 790 points.

The trophy was won by Kathleen Collins (204). Margaret Rowles (185) was runner-up.

SILVER MEDALS.

Seniors : K. Collins (204), M. Rowles (185), M. Jones (143), V. Goulbourne (140), F. Johnson (137), D. Gale (136), D. Hunt (136), Hewlett i. (126), O'Neal (87), A. Jenkins (83).

Juniors : M. Crompton (74).

BRONZE MEDALS.

Seniors : D. Ison (67), M. Clemson (50), Huxley (47), Smith (41), Swift (41).

Juniors : J. Hansell (57).

M. J. R.

Epidemics.

Crazes or epidemics, they must be considered alike. Their perpetrators are personalities who arise to exert, for a brief spell, in school and perhaps in the more sordid outer world, unlimited influence.

Looking back over a few years I can recall a few of them. One misguided individual, some time ago, introduced an instrument of pleasure called a "Yo-Yo." But the joy of the Yo-Yo owners ended abruptly when the Staff found their toys more useful, and more congenial, as instruments of ignition. A year ago, Marconi the Minute inspired youthful adventurers to deprive fountain-pens and pill-boxes of their more useful insides and substitute in their places tiny contraptions likely to receive the Derby. The chief experiment was carried through on the Alcester Golf-links with wire supplied by the S.W.S., at that time working, as an aerial and with a penknife and connecting wire as an earth. Reception was perfect—the writer can vouch for that, he happened to be listening-in. But I am glad to hear that the Derby can now be heard more openly—in the quiet seclusion of a form-room.

Now comes the latest and most potent epidemic, which is slowly but surely creeping in and endangering the life of the scholars. A blue monstrosity has appeared from goodness-only-knows where. You would think it ought to have, in twenty years, shed its old coat and have arisen bedecked in new, glorious and vivid apparel. But it has shed its old coat and has not yet assumed another. The effect is calamitous. Indeed, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. How feeble the framework really is, may be gauged from the fact that the owner drives from the nearside seat to keep the contraption on an even keel. But this misplaced weight does not counteract deficiencies in other quarters. It does not cure that reverberating, wheezing rasp that heralds its approach, or attempts to scare stray cattle; nor does it allay that quivering, ear-splitting whine which is emitted from its brake-drums. While its occupant, after all we can

hardly call him a driver, raises his arm to the "Heil Hitler!" when passing, every nut and bolt, every bearing, every big and little end raises its voice and openly cries a similar greeting; this time, like a true cockney, omitting the "H."

Is it then any wonder that its hare-brained owner is also greatly at a loss? Should we not expect him to drive motor-cycles on Nitro-Glycerine or some similar concoction? Is it any wonder that he calls nodules—"noddles," and crooning—"singing"? No! We can understand these palpable oddities if we admit that he is the part-inventor, user, and destroyer of the whole of one horrible epidemic. L.P.

When I first represented the School.

(1). AT CRICKET.

The bell had rung for morning break and I came merrily down the corridor with not a care in the world. At the end of the corridor were a number of boys; those in the background pushing and elbowing to the fore, and those in the fore solidly defending their coveted position. After about five minutes the crowd, being enlightened, had dispersed to their various interests. It was then that I saw the cause of the gathering. The cricket team for the coming Saturday's match had been published.

If I had been cheerful before, I was doubly so now; and no wonder! I had been chosen to play for the School for the first time.

The day of the match had arrived, and I was feeling in that nervous state which everyone experiences at one time in his life. Now the visitors arrived, and soon we were solemnly told that we were to field. So out we marched, I, very nervous, because there was quite a good-sized band of spectators. Soon after our field was placed, the opponents' opening pair walked on the field amidst loud applause, and the game had started.

That day I had my worst experience, for I could do nothing right. I let two balls go through my legs for fours, dropped three catches and generally let our side down. At last their eleventh wicket fell for the total of ninety.

After the tea interval our first pair were encouraged and soon the wickets were falling. When my turn came, as fourth man, the score was only twenty eight. In the first over I missed or blocked every ball, and then my nervousness left me. I faced the bowling with determination and leapt

out to meet the ball. Down flashed King Willow, and the ball sailed over the boundary for a six. The next ball I hit for a single, and my partner faced the bowling. Down flew the ball and his middle wicket was jerked out of the ground.

After this the wickets fell rather more slowly and, with a score of eighty four, the ninth man came out. The last man was left to face the bowling and I hoped against hope, that he would hit a single. He missed the first three balls, and on the fourth he managed to hit a single, giving me the bowling. I faced the bowling with a look of grim determination written on my face.

Over went the bowler's arm, down flashed the ball, and the next instant my trusty King Willow had sent it rebounding for a perfect six. The spectators rushed on to the field, hoisted me into the air, and cheered me repeatedly. I had really won the match, after all.

BIDDLE II. (Lower IV.)

(2). AT FOOTBALL.

With trembling hands I donned my football kit. My boots seemed two or three sizes too small. I pulled, strained, and struggled without avail. Had I time to loosen the laces? Yes, I must. At last I was completely equipped. With knocking knees, I tottered out of the dressing-room.

The team gave me some good advice, which I forgot in a short time, I am sorry to say.

Now the other team had arrived. They were all tall fellows, most of them six footers and the goalie seemed to fill the goals. We lined up, by this time I was on the verge of a breakdown, and the referee blew his whistle.

With all my heart I hoped that the ball would not come my way, but fate was against me, for the ball thudded at my feet almost at once. I was on the goal-line, should I miss and be jeered at, or should I score?

The posts danced before my eyes, would they never keep still? I steadied myself, back came my foot and, thud!—the ball flashed for the goals, the goalie dived—he had stopped it, no! It had passed his fingers by a very small margin and I had scored my first goal. No more knocking knees, for that goal had decided the issue, so to speak.

J. WHITEHOUSE, (Low. IV.)

A Miss is as good as a Mile.

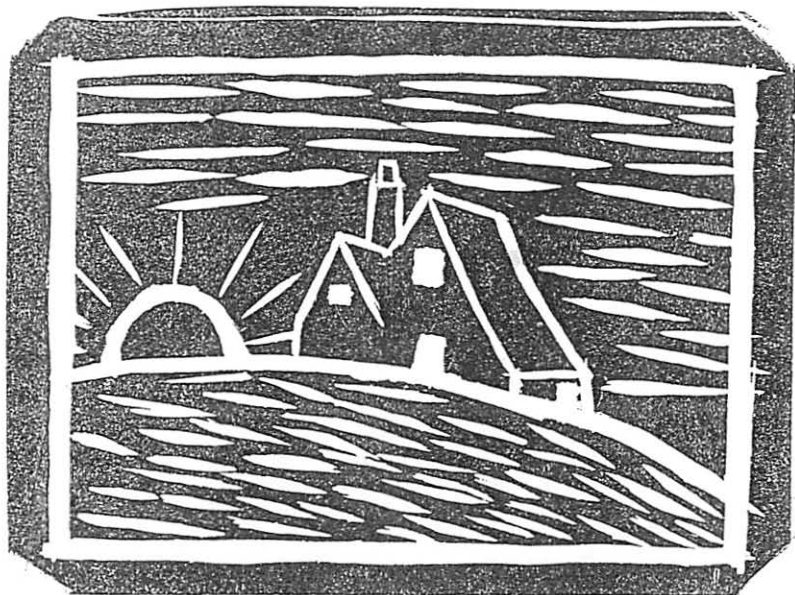
One dark night a man crept silently into a big mansion which was dark and gloomy because the owner was away for holidays. After picking the lock, the intruder went in and, going straight to one of the cupboards, he took out some cups and put them into a bag which he had taken out of the hall. Leaving the hall he got into his car and drove silently into the night.

After about three days the owner came back, and, finding that his cups were gone, he informed the police. At his house the police could find no clues.

After a time the owner was going to France by aeroplane. While at the aerodrome he saw a man carrying one of his cases. Going up to him, the owner of the house took the case from him. As he did something tinkled inside.

In a moment the owner knew that the man was the thief, and that the cups were inside the bag. But the man, seeing that he was nearly trapped, dropped the coat that he was carrying, and ran towards an aeroplane, jumping into it. He started it up and was soon out of sight. Although the owner had his cups, he had just missed catching the thief.

W. DEVEY (Form III.)



Print of linoleum cut by J. G. THOMAS.

A Lost Art.

Opinions differ on the subject of homework. The average third form boy will tell you that it is something useless invented by his ought-to-be-respected "elders and betters." However, I am going to give you my opinion, not on homework, but on neglected homework.

Others have informed us that we should be hopeless failures at any sort of acting whatsoever; and it is quite true. Everyone who has not done his homework this morning will have stood up and simply said, "Please, sir, I haven't done my homework." That ought to have been quite sufficient to get the offender double detention on the spot, for even if a "sorry" is added a lot more is still missing. An excuse is a thing that requires careful consideration. If there is obviously no chance of pretending that the homework has been done, be a man, stand up, and say, "My homework has unavoidably, inexplicably and definitely not been done. I cannot by any stretch of imagination be called absent-minded or forgetful and so I do not know of any reasonably good excuse for not doing it."

The result will quite probably be the same—detention; but at least you will have been original and will have made some sort of an impression. Of course, to be really effective your excuse should be composed over-night, and then, if you have rehearsed it, added dignity will be gained by gestures and a theatrical attitude. An easy way to earn the gratitude of the whole form, is to produce an oration which will take up the whole forty minutes of the lesson, though if the form is kept in to make up the time, you and your oration will be very much out of favour.

Verse, too, is not to be scorned: if you don't possess a gift for it yourself, Shakespeare is very obliging and you can easily borrow a few of his phrases. A punishment for French or Latin can quite well be evaded by offering your excuse in that language. Space will not allow me to give you any examples of those, but the person who generally does your homework for you, will, I am sure, be pleased to help you. To express oneself in mathematical formulae is a little more difficult, but it can be done. The only thing to remember is that x always equals the unknown quantity—exactly how much homework you have done.

Most important of all is the use of music for expressing an excuse. Stop reading this at once if you have a bad voice, otherwise your ambition may get the better of you, as a good voice is essential. It is easy to imagine punishments

being dealt out wholesale to a person with a voice that a crooner would be ashamed to own.

The more superior highbrow will have to think out his own effort, but for the less particular highbrow opportunities are boundless. He has only to sing something like this :—

Alone, alone is the book I should have to-day.

Alone, alone is the book that I meant to bring.

All of you who're waiting,

Have felt the way I do.

Wherever it is, it is, it is alone.

Alone, on this day that I need it here,

Alone, alone, is that book which should be here.

And as it's true, I'll promise, to show it you next time.

Alone, alone, is the book that I meant to bring.

Even a heart of stone would melt, when that poor book is pictured all on its own.

There are still many fields left to be explored, such as propounding riddles, the use of dialect, suitable "rehfeened" jokes, and so on, down an endless list. All these I must leave to your imagination, however, but please, may we have a competition next Sports Day to see who can produce the most original excuse for neglected homework.

PHYLLIS HOUGHTON.

When the Horse Chestnuts lit their Candles.

CHAPTER I.

Queen Maiden-hair of the fairies was travelling, trusting to her silvery wings in a dark chestnut wood.

At last, her wings gave way altogether and she fell lightly to the ground. There she lay ; her shining silky, golden locks which generally were so tidy, hung in a thick tangled mass about the dark track and on her face.

She began to feel drowsy—she slept.—

CHAPTER II.

In the court of Maiden-hair there was great anxiety. The Fairy Queen had not returned ! One little elf begged his companions to accompany him in his search for his Queen.

So a party of elves set out. They had not to go far before they spied, well hidden in the bark of a tree, a tiny door, six inches in height and two inches wide. There was a golden lock, and, well hidden under a chestnut leaf, was a gold key. They opened the door, and, O, such a sight met their eyes !

A wood, a chestnut wood, but instead of it being dark and dreary, on every tree there were about a hundred candles. There were red ones and pink ones and white ones as well. All combined, they made a beautiful light all over the wood. As they looked about them, they saw they were in no other wood than the one in which the Fairy Queen was lost.

By the light of the candles they easily found the Queen, but instead of the dark track there was smooth grass and her hair had been washed by the dew.

They gently woke her, and she said on waking, "I asked Mother Nature that it might happen." And they all went home in very great happiness.

G. SPENCER (Remove).

Scouts.

The chief feature of interest lies this term in the Scout Outing. As a contrast to last year's trip to the G. W. R. works at Swindon, this year we paid a visit to Dovedale, one of Derbyshire's many beauty spots, the Dale being situated at the southern extremity of the Pennines, about eighty miles from Alcester.

The day fixed for the outing was, as in previous years, the day after Sports Day. The weather was fine with the sun breaking through the clouds at intervals. The intervals, however, became larger as we approached Lichfield, and upon alighting there a heavy overcast sky welcomed us. We spent half an hour here, during which time we paid a visit to Lichfield Cathedral, everyone being impressed by its magnificence. Continuing our journey at a moderate pace, we finally arrived at the northern end of Dovedale at a little after mid-day.

A very cold wind greeted us and after some consultation with the driver, we set off at a sharp pace, heading southwards. After a few hundred yards, we came across a small river which was to act as our guide throughout the day. In this river we could see many live fish, much to the delight of the troop's amateur anglers. This same stream, by the way, was the happy hunting ground of that perfect fisherman, Izaak Walton. It was noticed that the largest hotel in the dale carried his name. At about one o'clock, a halt enabled a little "mountaineering" to be carried out, though a few of the party decided that it called for too much effort,

especially after Sports Day. After lunch, we came across several delightful caves which showed signs of heavy wear and tear at the feet of many sightseers.

Towards the end of the afternoon, we came across a "string" of donkeys which were "for hire." After the junior members had had a ride, the shyer seniors decided that it was not below their dignity to do likewise. After that, there were fierce scrambles as to who should secure a donkey. Our budding cameraman was so eager to get a photograph of the thrills, that he slipped and finished up in two feet of water. The same fate was nearly experienced by our "Gordon Richards," when his donkey decided that the middle of the river was the best place in which to take a rest.

Our equestrian exercises over, we walked to the village of Thorpe Cloud, and finished our outing in a cafe, where we partook of an excellent tea. The journey back was made in much higher spirits, and, unlike the outward journey, with no "casualties." The day terminated with three hearty cheers for our Scout-Master and for the driver and conductor.

Apart from the outing, we have little news to proffer. The numbers in the troop have decreased rather than increased, although in the last week or two we have had several additions. Once again I should like to say that there is still room in the troop for many more members.

Owing to the weather, route marches have been few, though we have managed to include one "attack and defence."

L.G.B.

Tennis.

CAPTAIN—F. K. Johnson. SECRETARY—C. M. Jones.
COMMITTEE—F. Sore (vice-capt.), M. Rowles, M. Clemson.

Although the weather has not been too favourable, the school has had a fairly successful season so far. The sides matches played before Sports Day resulted in two victories for the Tomtits and one for the Brownies.

The annual mixed match against the Old Scholars was played on July 2nd. There were eleven entrants for the Gold Medal Tournament. Tournament Day has been fixed for July 10th, when we hope to enjoy the usual fine weather.

A Ladies' Doubles Demonstration match was held on June 23rd. All the girls in Form III. and above watched this very interesting match.

The school has been represented by the following :—
K. Collins, M. Rowles, F. Sore, F. K. Johnson, C. Biddle,
M. Cowper and D. Hunt with E. Lewis as reserve.

Results :—

A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. Won 6 sets—3 sets.
v. Redditch C.H.S. Won 5 sets—4 sets.
v. Old Girls. Lost 8 sets—8 sets.
58 games—75 games.
v. Old Scholars. Lost 4 sets—11 sets.

The matches against Bromsgrove C.H.S. and Evesham
P.H.G.S. were scratched. C.M.J.

Cricket.

CAPTAIN—Hewlett i.

SECRETARY—Bayne.

Despite the fact that few of last year's team remain with us, the cricket season has not been disappointing, and the matches against Redditch and King's Norton have shown considerable promise. In the latter match the team was unfortunate in having to draw stumps before the game was decided, as there was every prospect of a win. Although the scores have been rather low, most of the team have had at least one successful innings.

| | | For | Against |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|----------|
| A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away) | Lost | 49 | 56 for 6 |
| v. King's Norton S.S. (away) | Drawn | 80 | 62 for 8 |
| v. Stratford K.E.G.S. (away) | Lost | 67 | 68 for 2 |
| v. Old Scholars (home) | Drawn | 101 for 7 (decl.) | 94 for 5 |
| v. Redditch C.H.S. (home) | Won | 65 | 24 |
| v. Warwick School 2nd XI (home) | Won | 106 | 85 |
| v. Redditch C.H.S. (home) | Drawn | 42 for 6 | 90 |
| v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home) | Lost | 36 | 38 for 2 |

Sides Matches :—

Brownies 18, Tomtits 37; Tomtits 46, Jackals 28; Brownies 88,
Jackals 103 for 8.

P.J.B.

Football, 1955-56.

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals For | Agst. |
|--|--------|-----|-------|------|--------------|-------|
| | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 30 | 85 |

The following boys represented the school : Luker, Richards,
Hewlett i., Hands, Keniston, Shrimpton, Clemson, Holman,
Chatterley, Orme, Hodgetts, Bullock i., Hughes i., Baylis i.,
Whitehouse, Collins i., Battersea, Avery, Down, Gray,
Grubb, Bullock ii.

Hockey, 1955-56.

| | Goals | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | For | Agst. |
| 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 20 | 40 |

The school was represented by the following:—M. Clemson, F. Sore, M. Rowles, D. Hunt, K. Collins, F. K. Johnson, C. Biddle, E. Lewis, M. Jones, M. Cowper, F. M. Johnson.

C.M.J.

Old Scholars' Football Club.

PRESIDENT—Mr. E. Wells.

HON. SECRETARY—F. Duxbury.

Ground—Crooks Lane, Alcester.

Looking back on the last football season it may be said that the Old Scholars' Club has had a highly successful first season. The Club now has a membership of 39, and 31 players have been called upon to represent the Club during the season. 22 matches were played; 14 being won, 1 drawn, and 7 lost; 89 goals being scored for and 43 against. K. Bailey headed the list of scorers with 16 goals, and was closely followed by G. Horton with 15.

The promise of further support for next season has encouraged the committee to make application for membership of the Birmingham and District Amateur Football Association, and we are pleased to say that the Club has been elected to this Association and League. This will entail a great deal of extra work and responsibilities, and it is hoped that members will respond to the committee's lead. A General Meeting and Supper, to which all Old Scholars are invited, will be held in August.

Results supplementary to those recorded last December:—

| | | | Goals | |
|-----------|--|------|-------|-------|
| | | | For | Agst. |
| Nov. 30th | Central School of Art (away) | lost | 1 | 7 |
| Dec. 7th | Austin Apprentices (home) | won | 2 | 0 |
| | 28th C. of B. Public Works Dpt. (away) | won | 2 | 1 |
| Jan. 4th | Shrimptons & Fletchers (away) | lost | 1 | 2 |
| | 11th Farmers Ins. Soc. Sports C. II. (h.) | draw | 1 | 1 |
| Feb. 1st | Keble College (away) | lost | 0 | 2 |
| | 8th Farmers Ins. Soc. Sports C. II. (home) | won | 7 | 2 |
| | 15th Birmingham Y.M.C.A. (away) | won | 7 | 2 |
| | 29th Birmingham Univ. III. (home) | won | 4 | 1 |
| Mar. 7th | Moor Green "A" (home) | lost | 0 | 2 |
| | 21st Birmingham Y.M.C.A. (home) | won | 12 | 1 |
| Apr. 4th | English Needle & F.T. Co. (home) | lost | 1 | 3 |
| | 11th English Needle & F. T. Co. (away) | won | 5 | 0 |

F. D.

For the Juniors.

It Happened on Mid-Summer's Eve.

Once upon a time in the middle of Spring, twenty-five elves were sent out to go and light up the woods, but I am sorry to say that these elves were used to being naughty elves and so they went and spoilt the whole wood.

When the Queen at length came, she was utterly ashamed of her beautiful wood. The little elves were nowhere to be found, so the Queen told fifty-five of her soldiers to find them. Though the Queen searched for them herself, no one could find them.

About six months afterwards the Queen saw them in the same wood and she punished them severely, by making them wear blue trousers instead of breeches. And she made the barber cut off their hair and for three years she made them wear nightcaps always. And now they are very good to their Queen.

V. STEVENS (Form II.)

The Three Ducks.

Once upon a time, there lived a duck, a drake and their duckling, but we called them, for short "Three Ducks."

They lived in a big field which had a pond in one corner. Their nest was made of grass and straw. Mrs. Duck was white, but Mr. Drake had all sorts of beautiful coloured feathers. The young duckling was yellow, when he broke his egg, but he turned greyish-brown as he grew older.

Mr. and Mrs. Duck always warned Dickie Duckling not to speak at all, after dark. They knew that foxes like young tender ducklings.

One night, however, Dickie Duckling woke up suddenly. Something stirred in the rushes. Dickie forgot all about his mother's wise advice and quacked out "Who's there?"

Before he knew what had happened, he was in the fox's mouth.

"We must call up the police to rescue our son," said Mr. Drake, now thoroughly awake.

Meantime poor Dickie was hanging up, in a bag in the fox's pantry. He picked a hole in the bag while Mr. Fox was laying his breakfast. He was much wiser now, so he tried to be quite noiseless. He crept out of the den, while Mr. Fox was cutting the bread and butter.

Wasn't he glad when he got home !

(Form I.)

Wishes.

I wish I could have a pony. I wish the war would stop. I wish I could have a fairy-dress and wings and a wand, so that I could pretend to be a fairy. I wish my mother would let me get her supper at night, as in the summer it is light enough to do it.

A. GAYDON (Form I.)

I wish I had a pony—a brown one with a white head, and a lovely doll like a princess, wearing a beautiful silver dress all glittering in the sunlight. I wish I had a pretty parrot that would say to me every morning "Hullo." I wish the summer would come and the birds would sing.

J. ALLEN (Form I.)

I wish I had a little real baby, because they have such funny ways. I wish I had a piano, because it is so nice. I wish I were as big as mother. I wish I had a lovely garden with roses on the wall. I wish one night I could see a fairy.

H. BARNES (Form I.)

I wish I had an electric train. I wish I had a car and a wireless set. I wish I was an engineer. I hope that all my wishes will come true one day.

DYBECK (Form I.)

ALCESTER:
THE CHRONICLE OFFICE,
HIGH STREET.
